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PREFACE.

THE present edition of the Walther Saga is the first attempt to offer in complete form all the surviving episodes of the Saga. The point of view and method of treatment are historical from first to last. The texts of the versions have been arranged in chronological order so as to present the Saga in its transmitted form. The aim of the treatment is to set forth the historical elements and setting of the Saga, and thus rescue it from vague, mythical interpretations. If order is ever to be brought out of chaos in the interpretation of Saga and Myth, it must be done by keeping in view the historical background, and by close adherence to the historical method. Indeed, both myth and saga express in some form actual events,—the one in the realm of natural phenomena, the other in that of historical occurrences.

In reproducing such a great variety of texts it has been necessary, in some cases, to make typographical substitutions, particularly in the Polish texts. The author, therefore, begs the indulgence of those whose eye may be offended by the liberty taken with the customary Polish characters, which could not be obtained at the time (cf. note on page 110). The few cases in which possible confusion might arise are the following: *genitive feminine forms* (including those used adverbially), which readers of Polish will readily recognize.

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MARION DEXTER LEARNED.

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